

Opuntia pulchella Engelmann**SAND CHOLLA****FAMILY:** *Cactaceae*, the cactus family.**SYNONYMS:** *Grusonia pulchella*
Corynopuntia pulchella
*Micropuntia gracilicylindrica***STATUS:** Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: G4 S2S3

USFWS/ESA: none. STATE OF NEVADA: harvest regulated. BLM: none. USFS: none. NNNPS: none.

CITES: Appendix II.

POPULATION CENSUS (NEVADA): 14 occurrences mapped; total estimated individuals 422+, total estimated area 2.9+ ha (7.2+ ac). **TREND:** unknown.**IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS (NEVADA):** No summary available (see references).**INVENTORY EFFORT (NEVADA):** Not yet systematically surveyed in Nevada. Most recent entered survey 1991, average year of last survey 1985. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **6-10 yrs:** 7.1%; **11-20 yrs:** 64.3%; **21-30 yrs:** 28.6%.**LAND MANAGEMENT (NEVADA)** in decreasing predominance: U. S. Bureau of Land Management, private lands, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.**RANGE:** Churchill, Douglas, Esmeralda, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, and Washoe counties, Nevada; also in AZ, CA, and UT. Maximum Nevada **range dimension 325.3 km (202.1 mi)** excluding most disjunct record.**ELEVATIONS RECORDED (NEVADA):** 3950-6300 feet (1204-1920 meters).**HABITAT (not yet reviewed for Nevada):** "Sand of dunes, dry-lake borders, river bottoms, washes, valleys, and plains in the desert." Dependent on sand dunes or deep sand in Nevada.**PHENOLOGY:** no summary available. Range of most frequent **survey months:** May-June.**DESCRIPTION:** not available (see references).**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Benson (1982); Nevada Natural Heritage Program files.**ILLUSTRATIONS:** none known.**OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES** (listed separately): Beatley (1976), Goodrich (1981), Hickman (1993).**SPECIFIC REFERENCES:**Goodrich, S. 1979. Status report on *Mertensia toyabensis*. Portland, Oregon: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Knight, T. A. 1987. A survey of sensitive plant species in selected areas of Railroad Valley, Nye County, Nevada.

Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program, status report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, Battle Mountain District.

Tiehm, A. 1983. Field search for proposed threatened and endangered plants on Phillips Petroleum lease unit in the Desert Peak area of Churchill County, Nevada. Carson City: Nevada Natural Heritage Program files.

Tiehm, A. 1989. Survey for *Oryctes nevadensis*, Churchill County, Nevada. Reno, Nevada: Environmental Management Associates. 8 pages.**OF FURTHER INTEREST:** Distinct species.